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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES
OF OUTER SPACE

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE - ACTIVITIES OF MEMBER STATES

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

The present document contains information provided in replies received from Member States up to 25 February 1992.

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1. During 1991 the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82) have proceeded and have been mainly focused on the development of national capabilities and expertise in specific areas of the peaceful use of space, as well as on the development of international cooperation activities with developing countries.

2. Among the areas that have been the object of more intensive activity directly or closely related to international cooperation, the one related to the use of remotely sensed data captured by satellites has played a major role.

3. As a matter of fact, during 1991 several national centres and institutions proceeded with their activity on the systematic use of satellite data. Among these, reference is made to the following:

- The National Meteorological and Geophysical Institute, which for the last 10 years has been systematically using satellite imagery obtained from meteorological satellites for its weather watch and nowcasting, and is developing projects for application of those data to agricultural, forestry and fishery activities;

- The Scientific Tropical Research Institute, with considerable experience and a long tradition of carrying out cooperation activities related to tropical research with developing countries, continued carrying out several projects on the use of the Global Positioning System (GPS) for geodesy purposes and satellite imagery for the production of basic and thematic cartography;

- The SATCART Consortium (involving the National Laboratory of Industrial Engineering, the Empresa de Investigaçao e Desenvolvimento de Electrónica S.A. and GEOMETRAL) started in 1987 and continued developing significant projects on the use of remotely sensed data and satellite image processing for several types of applications, namely the ones concerned with the fields of agriculture and forestry, as well as software developments in remote sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) environments; the main users of these technologies are still governmental and European Community (EC) specialized agencies;

- The Group of Oceanography of the Faculdade de Ciências de Lisboa continued using remotely sensed data from meteorological satellites applied to sea studies, namely upwelling phenomena, identification of best suitable location for fisheries exploitation, on a near-real-time basis, and sea-water pollution characterization, namely modelling of oil spill drift in the ocean; it has been operating its own satellite receiving facility for NOAA/HRPT;

- The National Laboratory of Civil Engineering carried out projects using remotely sensed data on water resources and land use assessment for developing countries and a dam reservoir inventory in Portugal;

- The National Geographic Information Centre, recently created as the coordinating agency of the National Geographic Information System continued carrying out the study and application of satellite imagery in environmental characterization, land use assessment and agriculture applications, namely within the scope of several projects;

- The National Geographic Institute as well as the Army Cartographic Service have continued the activities of specific projects aiming at the use of satellite imagery in the production and updating of maps.

4. The effort to develop a national data bank within the scope of the National Geographic Information System, aimed at the establishment of a network of national geo-referenced databases linking together cartographic data banks, satellite imagery and statistical and descriptive types of information related to specific locations in the country (recommendation (b) of paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 45/72 of 11 December 1990), was kept under way with the negotiation and the establishment of the conditions for the access to the data, with the main agency producers.

5. Following the intensive activities carried out in Portugal in the last years, and particularly since UNISPACE 82, new perspectives have been opened in Portugal regarding the implementation of cooperation activities with developing countries.

The National Institute of Meteorology and Geophysics has been and will be developing training courses for meteorological personnel of Portuguese-speaking African countries.

Indeed, within the curricula of existent courses and training activities that are presently being offered in Portugal, the integration of specific courses on the use of satellite imagery has already been implemented by the National Institute of Meteorology and Geophysics, the Faculty of Sciences of Lisbon University (both in the "licenciatura" degree, in meteorology, solid earth geophysics and oceanography, as well as in the Master of Science degree in oceanography, which includes a course on space oceanography), the Scientific Tropical Research Institute, the Geographic National Institute, the National Laboratory of Civil Engineering, the SATCART Consortium and the National Geographic Information Centre.

Besides the above-mentioned education and training activities, a significant expansion of the activities of cooperation with developing countries is being programmed for the present decade, focusing on the use of remotely sensed data captured from outer space. The opportunities for the

development of such cooperation activities are directly related to the specific programmes of activity of the several Portuguese institutions referred to in paragraph 3 above, which have been developing their experience and expertise on the use of remotely sensed date.